



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

January 27, 2011
6:30pm – 8:30pm

New England Institute of Technology
Hall of Fame Room
2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Present: Donna Alqassar, Ann Brockmann, Mike Burk, Joanne Eichinger, Patti Hien, Craig J. Levis, Melissa Moniz, JoAnn Nannig, Mary Pendergast, Melissa J. Reilly, Ann Rudman, Walter Sage, Sharon Schubert, Paul Stroup, Jr., Sharon Terzian, Louise Tillinghast

Absent: Deborah Ambeault, Jeffrey L. Aubin*, Kate Barnas, Wilfred Beaudoin, Eileen Botelho, Amy Canario*, William Cauley, Barbara Chadwick, Jennifer Connolly*, Susan Donovan*, Sharon Ferrara, Deborah Garneau, Kelly Marie Martin, Dorothy E. McDonough, Pamela O'Brien, Linda Osborne, Robin Pacheco, Susan Pfeil, Kellie Piche-Tatro, Karen Ramealca, Lisa Shea, Jane Slade

**sent advanced notice*

RIDE members present: Melissa MacDonald, David Sienko and Dr. Susan Wood

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review:

Announcements: Melissa MacDonald confirmed the two speakers that are scheduled to present at the February meeting: Sue Stevenson from The Autism Project will present information about a new grant that they received from DOH and Alice Woods, Education Specialist from RIDE will present updates on data and policy collection regarding physical restraint regulations

- *Melissa updated the membership on the Annual Statewide Parent Survey. The timeline and electronic access to all marketing tools have been sent to LEA's and other relevant persons of interest. The survey will be distributed on March 21, 2011.*

Telephone (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** (800)745-5555 **Voice** (800)745-6575 **Website:** www.ride.ri.gov

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Approval of Minutes: *In the interest of time, due to Dr. Wood's presentation on the SPP/APR which is lengthy, a motion was made to table approval of the December 2, 2010 minutes until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.*

New Business: *Dr. Susan Wood's presentation of the SPP/APR. The membership was given a packet containing:*

- *Draft of the full text of Part B State Performance Plan(SPP)/Annual Performance Report(APR)*
- *Draft Indicator highlights for the RISEAC membership presentation*
- *Template for RISEAC input*
- *Feedback due to Susan 1/31/2011(RISEAC feedback attached)*

Dr. Wood then reviewed the highlights of the report, indicator by indicator, allowing time for questions as the report was reviewed. Members were invited to make comments, suggestions, notes and feedback using the input forms which were collected and given to Melissa MacDonald to collate for RISEAC and then submitted to Dr. Wood.

Director's Report: David Sienko

- *Emphasized the importance of Dr. Wood's presentation of the SPP/APR to RISEAC and welcomed input and feedback*
- *Regarding Indicator #8/Parent Survey- information has been disseminated to LEA'S and parent organizations. Support of everyone in getting the word out to parents to respond and return their survey statewide is needed*
- *Proposed Secondary Regulations:*
 - *Feedback from RISEAC has been significant. Continue to watch for further developments. There has been powerful testimony at the public hearings for the secondary high school regulations from all constituencies.*
 - *Approximately 30 days left to submit public comment (see Listserv for dates and process for electronic submission)*
- *There was some discussion with members who commented on how the regulations originally were understood to be compensatory, not conjunctive.*
- *The proposed charter school regulations are being moved forward. RISEAC may have an interest to review the regulations and determine in a comment is warranted. See the Listserv for dates regarding the deadline for public comment and electronic submission.*
- *Saturday, February 5, 2011, a workshop at RI College is being held and the topic is Developmental Disabilities and Autism. Check the RITAP website for more details and registration.*
- *RIDE is required to update procedures for mediation, complaints, etc. (re: Indicator 16) on a regular basis. Sally Arsenault has tightened up the process with the work she has done with the RIDE Call Center. The forms for complaint and mediation process will be posted online shortly.*

Old Business: *Paul Stroup – Response to HS Secondary Regulations to BOR*

- *Some of the RISEAC members are concerned about the impression that RISEAC has given full backing to the proposed regulations.*
- *Some of the RISEAC membership still have concerns about the multi-tier diploma system and the ambiguous reference to "growth" that must be demonstrated if NECAP is not passed in the 11th grade.*
- *RISEAC would like to submit a draft of the membership's position regarding the regulations as a follow-up to Paul Stroup's testimony so to clarify RISEAC's endorsement to the Commissioner.*
- *RISEAC discussed submitting a letter regarding their desire to participate in the discussion about the guidance document that will accompany the final regulations once approved.*
- *A motion was made, seconded and approved, for the Executive Committee to finalize a follow up letter regarding RISEAC's response to the High School regulations, and bring the letter back to the full committee, time permitting. Otherwise, the Executive Committee is authorized to send a letter which will include:*

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That the initial testimony made to the BOR was not a wholesale endorsement of the new regulations. The items the committee does support are:

The multiple pathways to proficiency

High expectations for all students

More support from RIDE to put the system in place

Early identification of at-risk students

RISEAC would like to participate in the discussion of the guidance document to accompany the new regulations once developed.

Any additional comments or other submissions from the RISEAC membership need to be submitted to the Executive Committee by Friday, February 4, 2011.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Recording Secretary: Ann Brockmann

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org